

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06833 221222Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01  
ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 /080 W  
-----034809 221231Z /50

O P 221131Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1702  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO JCS WASHDC PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6833

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US  
SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT: DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

REF: ATHENS 6814, STATE 169898

1. AFTER MEETING WITH ME ON OTHER MATTERS JULY 21,  
FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF DRAFT  
COMMUNIQUE TO BE RELEASED AT TIME OF DCA INITIALING. HE  
SAID THAT DESPITE EXTREMELY DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION  
RESULTING FROM AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SCHAUFELER'S STATEMENTS,  
GOG WAS PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED  
FINAL ROUND ON JULY 28. HOWEVER, IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO  
AVOID AS MUCH ADVERSE COMMENT ON GREEK-U.S. SECURITY  
ARRANGEMENTS AS POSSIBLE AND BITSIOS THEREFORE BELIEVES COMMU-  
NIQUE SHOULD BE SHORT AND CONTAIN ONLY AS MUCH DETAIL AS IS  
NECESSARY. ANYTHING ADDITIONAL WOULD SIMPLY INCREASE THE  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTACK BY THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO THE AGREEMENT.

2. WITH THAT AS BACKGROUND, BITSIOS THEN TOOK OUT THE  
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06833 221222Z

DRAFT COMMUNIQUE I HAD PROPOSED TO CHRYSOPATHIS  
EARLIER IN THE DAY AND SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:  
IN THE FIRST SENTENCE AFTER "THE UNITED STATES AND  
GREECE" BITSIOS PROPOSED THAT WE ADD: ", AND  
WITH REFERENCE TO THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AGREED  
TO BY GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES ON APRIL 15, 1976,".  
THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY REFERENCE BACK TO THE

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND WOULD, IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S  
OPINION, ALLOW DELETION OF THE FIRST TWO SENTENCES IN  
PARAGRAPH 3 OF OUR PROPOSED REVISION AND ALL OF PARAGRAPH 4.

3. IN THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 2, BITSIOS  
PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION OF "MEETING" IN PLACE OF "ROUND  
OF NEGOTIATIONS", AND THE ADDITION AFTER "IN ATHENS"  
OF "ON JULY 28, 1977." SO THE SENTENCE COULD END AFTER  
"AD REFERENDUM TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS". IN THE SECOND  
SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 2 CHRYSOSPATIS SHOULD BE  
DESCRIBED AS AMBASSADOR RATHER THAN MR.

4. BITSIOS CONTENDED THAT WITH THE CHANGES HE  
HAD SUGGESTED OUR PROPOSED PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 WERE  
UNNECESSARY AND UNDESIRABLE. I COUNTERED THAT,  
IN MY OPINION, AT LEAST THE REFERENCE TO WHEN THE  
AGREEMENT WOULD COME INTO FORCE SHOULD REMAIN,  
PERHAPS WITH A FEW MINOR CHANGES, AND BITSIOS  
RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

5. FULL TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE NOW WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

"FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE IN ATHENS ON OCTOBER 8,  
1976, OF THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE STATE OF PROGRESS OF  
THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW DEFENSE  
COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND  
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PAGE 03     ATHENS 06833 221222Z

GREECE, AND WITH REFERENCE TO THE STATEMENT OF  
PRINCIPLES AGREED TO BY GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES  
ON APRIL 15, 1976, THE TWO SIDES CONTINUED CONTACTS  
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE  
PROGRESS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY THE DELEGATIONS OF BOTH  
COUNTRIES. DURING THIS PHASE OF CONSULTATIONS, THE  
TWO SIDES WERE ASSISTED BY EXPERTS, WHENEVER REQUIRED.

"IN A FINAL MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS IN  
ATHENS ON JULY 28, 1977, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON ALL  
THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
AND THE TEXTS WERE INITIALED AD REFERENDUM TO THE TWO  
GOVERNMENTS. INITIALING WAS DONE BY THE HEADS OF THE  
TWO DELEGATIONS, MR. HAWTHORNE MILLS, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES  
OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN GREECE, AND AMBASSADOR  
SPIROS CHRYSOSPATIS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE COMPETENT  
POLITICAL DESK OF THE HELLENIC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL ENTER INTO FORCE AFTER  
SIGNATURE BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND AFTER RATIFICATION  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL  
PROCEDURES."

6. WE BELIEVE PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE AS REDRAFTED MEETS OUR MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMEND THAT IT BE APPROVED. ALTHOUGH IT CONTAINS LESS DETAIL THAN PROPOSED IN STATE 169898, THE REFERENCE BACK TO STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WHERE THOSE DETAILS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC SHOULD BE AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE, IN OUR VIEW.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE OR COMMENTS IN TIME FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH GREEK SIDE ON MONDAY, JULY 25.

8. CHRYSOSPATIS JUST PHONED TO SAY HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH BITSIOS OUR DESIRE TO HAVE AN ADVANCE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ATHENS 06833 221222Z

ANNOUNCEMENT AND THAT BITSIOS FIRMLY BELIEVES SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE AN UNNECESSARY MISTAKE. THIS DEVELOPMENT REINFORCES EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION IN ATHENS 6814 THAT WE NOT INSIST ON ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT.  
MILLS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, GR, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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